



Marine Invasive Monitoring Fact Sheet

What is the Marine Invader Monitoring and Information Collaborative (MIMIC)?

- MIMIC is a partnership between state and federal agencies, scientific experts, and nonprofits to monitor marine invasive species found along the New England coast.
- Since 2008, trained volunteers have monitored species at over 130 sites. Currently, 10 partners and more than 100 citizen scientists monitor 60+ sites from Massachusetts to Maine.

MIMIC Goals:

- Provide early detection of potential invaders to our region.
- Understand regional patterns of established invasive species.
- Educate the public about marine invasive species.
- Provide data to all interested users.
- Get outside and have fun!

What are invasive species?

- Invasive species are **non-native** plants and animals that are **introduced** by humans to a new location and **cause harm or have the potential to cause harm** to the environment, economy, or public health.
- There are more than 60 documented introduced marine species in the New England region.
- Over half of all marine introductions are attributed to shipping (attached to the hull or in ballast water).
- Other “vectors” for marine introduction include aquaculture, pet aquarium trade, and live seafood trade.

How does MIMIC work?

- We look for **18 species** that are established in New England.
- Species monitored include seaweeds, tunicates (sea squirts), and crustaceans (shrimp, crabs).
- We monitor docks, tide pools, and cobble shorelines during the summer.
- We record conditions at the site and then search for an hour for species on our targeted list.

Add your species photos to the MIMIC project on iNaturalist!

- Check out our project page - www.inaturalist.org/projects/mimic.
- Create a free account on the web or with the iNaturalist app on your phone and join the “**MIMIC**” project to add your observations (please add photos and identify the species to the best of your ability).

Need more information?

- The MIMIC Coordinator is happy to answer any questions!
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- See the Marine Invasive Species Program Website - www.mass.gov/marine-invasive-species-program